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Compromise reached on portable classroom inspections

LANSING – School districts will be able to move and reuse portable classrooms while meeting reasonable inspection standards under a compromise bill on its way to the governor, Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, today announced.

“During these difficult financial times for schools, I’m glad we were able to reach a solution that keeps students safe and helps school districts save money,” said Jelinek, sponsor of the bill.

Senate Bill 677 would require the director of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth to promulgate rules that would apply specifically to these “portables” in order to make sure they meet state construction codes while not requiring unnecessary repairs or updates.

In 2002, school buildings, including portables, were brought under the state construction code in addition to complying with the school construction code. As a result, new regulations applied to school buildings, including portables, such as increased inspections if a portable was moved from one location to another.

“This compromise will allow schools to continue using portables for temporary classrooms and storage areas while making sure they are safe for students,” Jelinek said. “We were hearing from many school districts that the new regulations were too strict for structures that they considered only temporary and not part of the actual school building.”

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